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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the fourth session (6-8 August 2014)

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Council

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, in which the Assembly endorsed the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[1] which included, inter alia, key actions to improve the efficiency and security of transport, search and rescue, geodesy and other activities by promoting the enhancement of, universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems, including Global Navigation Satellite systems,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, in which the Assembly endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and means of implementation, which included, inter alia, strengthening cooperation and coordination among global observing systems and research programmes for integrated global observations, taking into account the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council: established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management; encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies; and

[1] Adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 (see A/CONF.184/6, chap. I, resolution 1).

emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field,

Noting also resolution 1, adopted on 1 November 2012 by the nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,[2] held in Bangkok, in which the Conference, realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System, and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the foundation reference frame, urged Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain the global geodetic reference frame and provide a road map for its implementation, and to participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability,

Noting further decision 3/102,[3] adopted by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on 26 July 2013, in which the Committee agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in order to seek support and commitment at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process,

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the global geodetic reference frame and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

Recognizing also the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame for the Earth, that allows the interrelationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field-related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation, construction) where precise positioning introduces efficiencies,

Recognizing further the extraordinary achievements made by national mapping and space agencies, geodetic commissions, research organizations and universities, and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors, building upon initiatives of the International Association of Geodesy, representing the global geodetic community, in measuring and monitoring changes in the Earth's system on a best-effort basis, including the development of the now adopted International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

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[2] See E/CONF.102/8, chap. IV.B.

[3] See E/2013/46-E/C.20/2013/17, chap. I.B.

Recognizing the investments of Member States in developing satellite missions for positioning and remote sensing of the Earth, supporting a range of scientific endeavours that improve our understanding of the "Earth system" and underpin decision-making, and recognizing that the full societal benefits of these investments are only realized if they are referenced to a common global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Recognizing, with appreciation that some Member States are already implementing open geodetic data sharing mechanisms for the benefit of realizing, improving and accessing the global geodetic reference frame at the national, regional and global levels,

Acknowledging that the global geodetic reference frame depends upon participation from countries all around the globe, and the need to take action to strengthen international cooperation,

1. *Endorses* decision 3/102 of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management that a working group should be established, with equitable regional representation, to develop a global geodetic road map that addresses key elements relating to the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries, with the aim of ensuring the development, sustainability and advancement of a global geodetic reference frame;

3. *Urges* Member States to implement open sharing of geodetic data, standards and conventions to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation, and in coordination with the International Association of Geodesy;

4. *Invites* Member States to commit to improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the global geodetic reference frame;

5. *Invites* Member States to engage in multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable global geodetic reference frame;

6. *Invites* Member States to develop outreach programmes that make the global geodetic reference frame more visible and understandable to society;

7. *Recommends* the present resolution further to the General Assembly for endorsement.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session;

(b) Decides that the fifth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee of Experts

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
6. Development of a global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
10. The application of geospatial information — land administration and management.
11. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles on the management of geospatial information.
12. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
13. Coordination of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.
14. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.
15. Programme review of the work of the Committee during the period 2011-2015.
16. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
17. Provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee.
18. Report of the Committee on its fifth session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council:

4/101
Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the report prepared by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame, and expressed its appreciation to the members for their significant leadership and work accomplished in a short period of time;

(b) Underlined once again the importance of a widely accepted global geodetic reference frame, and stressed its many uses for science, social and economic development and disaster risk reduction and management;

(c) Endorsed the terms of reference of the working group and associated conceptual note, as amended;

(d) Adopted the draft resolution on a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development, as amended, requested the Secretariat to refer the resolution to Economic and Social Council for endorsement and further referral to the General Assembly, and also gratefully noted the commitment of Member States to provide support in this process;

(e) Acknowledged the offer of continuous support and cooperation by Member States, especially in the important area of capacity-building;

(f) Agreed to enlarge the working group for broader regional representation, requested the continuation of its activities on the development of a road map for the global geodetic reference frame, and to report to the Committee at its next session.

4/102
Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the comprehensive report prepared by the Secretariat, and was appreciative of the efforts made to demonstrate and promote the importance of reliable geospatial information to measure and monitor the goals of the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) Noted that the current debate on a new United Nations development agenda provides a unique opportunity for the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management to raise the visibility and importance of geospatial information as an enabler for sustainable development;

(c) Regretted that, despite the many efforts by the Secretariat and Member States, the level of understanding and use of geography and

geospatial information in sustainable development, particularly at the policy and decision-making levels, remains somewhat limited;

(d) Agreed to establish a small group of experts to support the Bureau and the Secretariat in their efforts to enhance the role of geospatial information in the ongoing debate on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, and to keep the Committee informed;

(e) Encouraged Member States to ensure that initiatives and activities related to sustainable development include geospatial information within their national frameworks;

(f) Took note of the various suggestions expressed by Member States, of their commitment towards the ongoing discussion on disaster risk reduction.

4/103
Global map for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group for a global map for sustainable development, and expressed it appreciation for the efforts of the working group in monitoring the discussions taking place in the sustainable development community;

(b) Noted the need to develop more effective communication toolkits to demonstrate how geospatial information can contribute to the sustainable development goals, and to the monitoring of the progress made in the context of the post-2015 agenda, and to work with other working groups, as appropriate;

(c) Noted the practical proposal for the regional geospatial information management entities to provide guidance and participate in these efforts;

(d) Requested that the working group for a global map for sustainable development and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping, as a way to deliver such a map that can be used by the sustainable development community, increase their synergy in proposing a strategic and operational workplan inclusive of the following:

(i) Engage with post-2015 development agenda policymakers to participate in the upcoming High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in Beijing in October 2014, to showcase how geospatial information plays a crucial role in measuring and monitoring in areas such as urban hazard and emergency situations;

(ii) Participate in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai City, Japan, in March 2015, to demonstrate the crucial role of geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and in responding to natural hazards and emergencies in a timely manner;

(iii) Contribute to the global geospatial information management knowledge base portal on the application of geospatial information in the above-mentioned domains, and develop a flyer to reach out to

policymakers to demonstrate real case studies of how geospatial information has contributed to solve global challenges;

(e) Requested that the working group report to the Committee at its next session.

4/104
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes, and agreed that they should be integrated and harmonized from the national to global levels, as they underpin several of the Committee's core objectives related to sustainable development;

(b) Agreed that actions should be taken for Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of fundamental geospatial data themes, building on existing national and regional fundamental datasets;

(c) Suggested that, as a first step, the preparation of an inventory of existing themes, core datasets, data models and practices, would be useful in determining current arrangements; and acknowledged the need to keep the efforts technical in nature, so as not to raise political concerns;

(d) Also acknowledged the need for a working group to explore harmonization at a global level, identifying also strategic priorities, and invited the Bureau to consult with existing working groups as to whether this work could be integrated into their work, prior to creating a separate working group.

4/105
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and commended the Expert Group on the excellent work and progress achieved in a short period of time;

(b) Commended the leadership taken by the Expert Group in formulating a work programme that included an international workshop, held in Beijing in June 2014, and a global forum, held on the margins of the fourth session of the Committee of Experts, establishing strong engagement and synergy between the statistical and geospatial communities;

(c) Endorsed the terms of reference of the Expert Group, inclusive of its programme of work and areas of focus;

(d) Acknowledged that harmonizing national statistical and geospatial systems provides valuable means for integrating diverse data themes, including socioeconomic, environmental and other data;

(e) Took note of the suggestions from Member States regarding the need to consider big data, the 2020 round of censuses and other information as means of integration, while avoiding duplication of efforts;

(f) Requested the Expert Group to report to the Committee on progress, including pilot projects towards integration for the 2020 round of censuses.

4/106
Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements, including the draft terms of reference, work plan and road map, and expressed its appreciation to the working group for its efforts;

(b) Noted the strategic importance of national institutional arrangements, particularly as Member States are at different stages of geospatial development, and that institutional and policy frameworks are dependent on these legal, fiscal arrangements and governance models, which are different across the globe;

(c) Encouraged Member States that have experiences in implementing the issues concerned to join the working group, or provide examples of such experiences and existing gaps;

(d) Requested the working group to continue its work with Member States and regional and international entities, and to report to the Committee at its next session on progress.

4/107
Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on the development of a statement of shared principles, and expressed its appreciation to the working group for its excellent work;

(b) Endorsed the terms of reference and programme of activities of the working group, and agreed that "A statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management" is a more appropriate title for the principles;

(c) Noted the strong consensus on the principles and encouraged Member States to continue to consider the recommended principles and provide comments for refinement and endorsement by the Committee for further referral to the Economic and Social Council;

(d) Requested the working group to provide the Committee with a final statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management for endorsement at its next session.

4/108

Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the report on the development of the knowledge base, including the additional functionalities to be incorporated, and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its work;

(b) Acknowledged the importance of the knowledge base in providing critical and relevant information, including case studies and reports, and encouraged Member States to continue to contribute such material;

(c) Took note of the suggestions to connect to other existing resources, capabilities and portals in order to have an efficient and sustainable knowledge base;

(d) Urged the regional geospatial information management entities to contribute to the maintenance and promotion of the knowledge base and provide guidance on entries for other data and information;

(e) Requested the Secretariat to report to the Committee at its next session.

4/109

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data, and expressed its appreciation to the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy for its valuable contribution in monitoring development in this field;

(b) Noted the increased location-based technological developments around the world that could impact the development of legal and policy frameworks as they apply to the collection, use, storage and dissemination of geospatial information;

(c) Noted the close collaboration with the Group on Earth Observations Data Sharing Working Group, and the common goals and objectives to address issues related to legal and policy challenges, and expressed its appreciation to the Group on Earth Observations secretariat for committing to support the Committee in this process;

(d) Recognized the concerns expressed by Member States regarding the proposed convention on geoinformation, agreed that the convention was attempting to address complex geospatial issues that required further careful consideration, and noted that Member States should be exclusively consulted on the formulation and possible establishment of the proposed convention;

(e) Requested the Bureau and the Secretariat to:

(i) Communicate with the International Bar Association on the proposed convention, the disquiet shown by Member States, and the Committee's continued efforts in this area;

(ii) Continue to monitor and inform the Committee and Member States on the emerging legal and policy issues;

(iii) Consider existing national legal and policy frameworks that may be suitable for broader use within the global geospatial information community;

(iv) Owing to the complexity of the issue, continue to work closely with the Member States;

(v) Keep the Committee and Member States informed regarding its efforts.

4/110
Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization, and expressed its appreciation for their efforts in producing the standards Guide and Companion document;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the Co-Chairs from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mexico for producing the complementary report entitled "National mapping authority perspective: international geospatial standards", which provides an institutional and business value perspective of geospatial standards in mapping organizations;

(c) Agreed that the background documents entitled "A guide to the role of standards in geospatial information management" and "Companion document on standards Recommendations by Tier" are important methodological guidelines to assist Member States in implementing and adopting geospatial standards within their national frameworks;

(d) Noted that there is still a need to continue to raise the awareness of standards and related policies to e-government agendas, and that relevant case studies and best practices are an important means of demonstrating the value to decision makers;

(e) Took note of the suggestions by a number of Member States to build on the Guide and Companion document to include the following areas: case studies; business value proposition; data capture and quality issues; and related policies;

(f) Agreed to publish the Guide and Companion document as United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management reports, and acknowledged the offers by Member States to have them translated;

(g) Requested the Secretariat to continue its work with existing standardization bodies and the Member States and report to the Committee at its next session.

4/111
Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports by regional entities and thematic groups on their initiatives, and expressed its appreciation for their valuable contributions and achievements in support of the Committee's activities and objectives;

(b) Welcomed in particular the broad range of activities of the Regional Committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas and their efforts to reach out to all countries within their respective regions;

(c) Congratulated the group of European countries for their extensive work to define modalities of cooperation and formulate a common work programme, endorsed the establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe, welcomed the announcement to hold the first plenary meeting of the Regional Committee in the Republic of Moldova in October 2014, and invited the Regional Committee to report regularly to the Committee of Experts;

(d) Congratulated the group of Arab States for their preparatory work towards a common work programme, endorsed the establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States, noting the transitional committee will continue to function in the foreseeable future, welcomed the announcement to hold the first meeting in early 2015, and invited the Regional Committee to report regularly to the Committee of Experts;

(e) Noted the progress being made towards establishing a regional committee on geospatial information management for Africa, and welcomed the announcement of a preparatory meeting to be convened in November 2014;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and other international geospatial organizations for their contributions to advancing the global geospatial information management initiatives, and endorsed the International Map Year 2015-2016, as proposed by the International Cartographic Association, as a valuable means of promoting the importance of maps and geospatial information globally.

4/112
Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group for the report and background document on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information, and also expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for its contribution in the form of a background document, highlighting the importance of accurate place names;

(b) Stressed the need for continued coordination and the clarification of roles and responsibilities of geospatial information activities within and outside the United Nations system by the members of the Working Group;

(c) Welcomed the coordination efforts of the Working Group aimed at avoiding fragmentation and effectively using scarce resources of the United Nations system;

(d) Encouraged the Working Group to intensify its efforts in this regard, also taking into account the regional dimension, and to work closely with the Secretariat;

(e) Invited the Working Group to report to the Committee at its next session.

Chapter II
Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Global geodetic reference frame

4. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st meeting, held on 6 August 2014. It had before it the report of the working group on the global geodetic reference frame. The Co-Chair of the working group made introductory statements.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Japan, Italy, Jamaica, Norway, Mexico, the United States of America, Bangladesh, Denmark, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Guyana, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, Argentina, Canada, Qatar, Uruguay, Oman, Finland, New Zealand, Spain, Jordan, France, Poland, Sweden, Morocco, Tunisia, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Fiji, the Republic of Moldova and Saudi Arabia, and by the observers for the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Group on Earth Observations, the International Standards Organization, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the International Association of Geodesy.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

7. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/101).

B. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

8. The Committee considered item 13 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 6 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda. Introductory statements were made by the Secretariat.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, France, Mexico and Bangladesh.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

11. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/102).

C. Global map for sustainable development

12. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 6 August 2014. It had before it the report by the working group for a global map for sustainable development on developing a global map for sustainable development. The Chair of the working group made introductory statements.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Spain and Mexico.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

15. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/103).

D. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

16. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, held on 6 and 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes. The Secretariat made introductory statements.

17. Also at the 2nd and 3rd meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Mexico, Spain, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Norway, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, the Philippines, the Netherlands, the United States, Italy, Jamaica and Chile, and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

18. At the 3rd meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

19. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/104).

E. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

20. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information. The Co-Chair of the Expert Group made introductory statements.

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, South Africa, Bangladesh, France, the United Kingdom, Brazil, the United States, Singapore, Italy, Jamaica, Argentina, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Egypt and Poland, and by the observers for the European Commission.

22. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

23. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/105).

F. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

24. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements on the trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management. The Chair of the working group made introductory statements.

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Chile, France, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Guyana, South Africa, Germany, the United Kingdom and Mexico, and by the observers for EuroGeographics and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association.

26. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

27. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/106).

G. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

28. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the working group on the development of a statement of shared principles on the management of geospatial information. The Chair of the working group made introductory statements.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Australia, Denmark, the Philippines, Canada, France, Suriname, the United Kingdom, Italy and South Africa, and by the observer for the European Commission.

30. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

31. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/107).

H. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management

32. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on a knowledge base for geospatial information management. The Secretariat made introductory statements.

33. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Germany, Canada, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Australia, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom, and the observers for Esri and the International Standards Organization.

34. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

35. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/108).

I. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

36. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data. The observer for the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy made introductory statements.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, the Philippines, Sweden, Canada, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Suriname and the United States, and the observers for the Open Geospatial Consortium and the Group on Earth Observations.

38. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

39. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/109).

J. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

40. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Hydrographic Organization on implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community. The observer for the Open Geospatial Consortium made introductory statements.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Australia, Chile, Mexico, Japan, Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, France, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Jamaica, and the observers for the European Commission, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Hydrographic Organization.

42. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

43. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/110).

K. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

44. The Committee considered item 14 of its agenda at its 4th and 5th meetings, held on 7 and 8 August 2014. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Committee on Development, Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, on their activities.* Each of the Chairs made introductory statements.

45. Also at the 4th and 5th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, the United States, Sweden, Austria, Mexico, Japan, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Qatar and Lebanon, and the observers for the International Cartographic Association, the European Commission, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Pan American Institute of History and Geography, Esri and Carleton University.

46. At the 5th meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

47. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/111).

L. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

48. The Committee considered item 12 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014. It had before it the report of the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information.* The Co-Chair of the Working Group made introductory statements.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

49. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Spain, the United States, Bangladesh, Norway and Canada, and the observers for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

50. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

51. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/112).

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee

52. The Committee considered item 15 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee.*

53. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, South Africa, Austria, Australia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, the United States, Spain, Norway and Canada.

Action taken by the Committee

54. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for its fifth session, as orally amended, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B).

55. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fifth session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015 (see chap. I, sect. B).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee on its fourth session

56. The Committee considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014. It had before it the draft report contained in an informal paper.

Action taken by the Committee

57. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft report on its fourth session, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Co-Chairs made closing statements.

Chapter V
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

58. The Committee held its fourth session from 6 to 8 August 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held five meetings (1st to 5th). The Co-Chair of the Committee, Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom), opened the session.

B. Attendance

59. The session was attended by 281 participants, including 222 representatives from 84 Member States. Also present were 59 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

C. Election of officers

60. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:

Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom)
Eduardo Sojo Garza Aldape (Mexico)
Li Pengde (China)

Rapporteur:

Sultan Mohamed Al'a (Ethiopia)

D. Credentials

61. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with a relevant United Nations body, to participate as observers at its fourth session: Arab Union of Surveyors, Association of Caribbean States, Carleton University — Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, Coordinates, DigitalGlobe, Esri, EuroGeographics, European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information, Geomares Publishing, Geospatial Media and Communications, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, Group on Earth Observations, Hexagon Leica Geosystems, International Association of Geodesy, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, Kokusai Kogyo Company, MDA Geospatial Services, Open Geospatial Consortium, Oracle Corporation, Pendragon International Limited, Pasco Corporation, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, SmartXchange, Supreme GIS Services, Trimble, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association Caribbean Chapter.

E. Agenda and organization of work

62. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2014/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers and other organizational matters.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
10. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.
11. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.
12. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.
13. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.
14. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.
15. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee.
16. Report of the Committee on its fourth session.

63. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of the work of the session.*

F. Rules of procedure

64. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted its rules of procedure as contained in document E/C.20/2014/2, following revision for the selection of the Co-Chairs.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

G. Documentation

65. The documents before the Committee at its fourth session are available from the website of the Statistics Division at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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